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For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit [www.michigangaming.com](http://www.michigangaming.com)

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# The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



## KEWADIN CASINOS WELCOMES NEW CEO

On April 5, 2017, Kewadin Casinos, owned by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, named Ron Olson its new CEO. Kewadin Casinos operates five gaming properties with over 2,000 slot machines, 55 table games, two hotels, convention and meeting facilities throughout the Upper Peninsula.

"We are thrilled to welcome Ron and his family back to Michigan and to the top executive post at our Kewadin Casinos," said Sault Tribe Chairman and Kewadin Gaming Authority Chairman, Aaron Payment, as reported by [Crainsdetroit.com](http://Crainsdetroit.com). "His national and Michigan gaming knowledge and experience will help solidify Kewadin Casinos as the premier gaming destinations in the U.P. for residents and visitors alike."

Olson joins Kewadin with over two decades of experiences and over the course of his career he has managed single-casino properties and gaming enterprises with amenities including golf courses and hotels and is licensed by tribes in North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, New Mexico and Michigan. Notably, Olson previously spent ten years in Michigan between serving as the CEO of the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa and the General Manager of the Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey. Olson was the CEO of Dakota Nation Gaming Enterprise for the last three years in North Dakota prior to taking his new position with Kewadin.

Olson officially begins as CEO on April 17, 2017.

## **AGA ESTIMATES OVER \$36 BILLION TO BE WAGERED ON MLB GAMES THIS SEASON**

On March 30, 2017, the American Gaming Association (“AGA”) released an estimate forecasting that American sports fan would wager \$36.5 billion on Major League Baseball (“MLB”) games this season and, according to the AGA, \$35.4 billion, or 97 percent, of those wagers will be placed illegally through illicit offshore websites and sports bookies.

“The amount wagered illegally on professional baseball is another sign the federal ban on sports betting has become an utter failure,” said Geoff Freeman, AGA President and CEO. “It’s time for Washington to stop depriving states of critical tax revenue and allow them to reap the rewards of a regulated market.”

During the 2016 MLB season, the AGA estimated that fans would illegally wager roughly \$2.4 billion on MLB post-season games. The Nevada Gaming Control Board estimated only \$85 million was wagered legally on MLB playoff games in 2016. According to the AGA, Americans wager an estimated \$154 billion on all sports every year.

Fans interested in helping to lift the federal ban on sports betting can learn more at [SportsBettingInAmerica.com](http://SportsBettingInAmerica.com).

## **AGA PARTNERS WITH EMERGING LEADERS OF GAMING TO HOST WEBINAR**

On April 3, 2017, the American Gaming Association (“AGA”) announced its partnership with Emerging Leaders of Gaming, founded by the Innovation Group, to hold a webinar on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm, regarding the emerging gaming technologies and industry trends, including the “gamification” of casino properties. This video webinar will feature experts covering a number of gaming industry

developments such as skill based gaming and the incorporation of game-like experiences throughout casino properties.

To learn more about Emerging Leaders of Gaming or to register, click [here](#).

## **MICHIGAN CHARITABLE GAMING ASSOCIATION TO HOLD TRAINING SEMINAR**

On April 3, 2017, the Michigan Charitable Gaming Association (“MiCGA”) announced that it would hold a training seminar on Thursday, April 20, 2017 in Owosso, Michigan. The seminar will include information about complying with MGCB rules for millionaire parties (those events that conduct games with imitation money, similar to a casino), bingo & raffle updates, in addition to legislative updates.

For more information or to register, click [here](#).